Volume 18 No. 11 March 2008

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Beyond the overturned cop car, is there anything else we should know?

Three eyewitnesses give their accounts, unfiltered by the Evergreen administration and big media

by Tony Zaragoza

I was at the Dead Prez show on the night of Thursday, Feb. 14, and have been a fan of rap/hip-hop since the mid '80s. I arrived at Thursday night's show around 10 PM. Through the night I saw nothing happen at the concert that was out of the ordinary. I didn't see any of the scuffles that are mentioned in the accounts below. I left at 12:40 AM, and as I was exiting the CRC I saw a female officer standing and talking with a white man who was seated on the ground. At that moment I wondered what was going on, but I couldn't imagine what would happen later, and was quite surprised to hear the unfortunate news on NPR Friday morning.

As I followed the coverage and heard rumor pile on rumor, and watched as various conversations grew that were built on speculations and one-sided accounts, I became more determined to find out what actually happened. Over the weekend following the incident, I began talking with as many people as I could to find out what happened, how it happened, and why.

Through this process, I was able to get three written statements from people who watched the events unfold. Each person has given me permission to share their eyewitness account, but none of them has given me permission to identify the writer. [EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Thurston County Sheriff's Office has threatened to subpoena witnesses for a criminal investigation.*] I gathered the statements independently from each person and trust that they have written the truth as they saw it. Below you will find the three statements. I think it is very important that these eyewitness accounts be taken into consideration in all further discussions of the Feb. 14 incident.

Eyewitness account #1

I am an Evergreen alum and a big Dead Prez fan. I went to the show on Thursday night with the intention of enjoying a good concert and nothing else. I saw the development of the entire situation unfold probably better than any other witness, and I feel like the truth is being distorted and lied about. So here is my account:

While "Umi", Dead Prez's main opening act, was finishing one of his last songs, some people a couple rows in front of me were smoking what looked to be a joint. A man not wearing any kind of security credentials, who I will call security volunteer A, lunged at the man smoking and tried to grab the joint. Another man was pushed when the security volunteer A attempted to grab the joint, that man told him not to push him. Security volunteer A immediately got in the man's face and identified himself as security and told the fan to calm down. The fan chanted back something to the effect of "smoke that weed, smoke that weed."

Another man, a friend of security guard A, wearing a gray sweatshirt, stepped in and aggressively got in the fan's face too. A fight broke out with 4 or 5 people involved, and it was over quickly. After the fight ended, I saw a young girl standing there holding her head. I asked her if she was ok and she said she was fine. I then turned around and saw the same group of people fighting again towards the back of the concert.

After Umi finished, I decided to get bottled water before Dead Prez came on. I walked to the front of the gym (CRC building) with a friend. I looked outside and noticed the fan who had been in the first altercation surrounded by security volunteer A, the man in the gray sweatshirt, a blonde girl, a brown haired girl, a white man with dreads and a blazer jacket, and a slender white male with brown hair. I walked outside to see what was happening. The blonde girl was yelling at the fan when all of a sudden, security volunteer A blindside punched the fan in the face. Then the man in the gray sweatshirt tackled the fan to the ground while the other five people kicked him and punched him. My friend stopped the man with dreads from hitting the fan on the ground and I pulled the man in the gray sweatshirt off the fan. Another person stood in front of the two girls and one guy to stop them from beating the fan. The fan stood up and walked off. Some people yelled back and forth and it was over. I got a good look at everyone involved in the fight and NO ONE had a mark on their face; no blood, no swollen parts, nothing, so I assumed the nonsense was over, and I walked back into the concert with my friend.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14th
THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE RECREATION CENTER
DEAD PREZ
DJ B-Girl
ALPHA P
Ft. Suntonio Bandanaz, Julie C, Jerm, Inkubiz and more!!
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HAILSTORM
D HEAVYSET
Tickets available at
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THE EVERGREEN BOOKSTORE
STUDENTS: $10 adv./$15 doors GENERAL: $15 adv./$20 doors
Doors open @ 8:00pm Show starts @ 9:00pm
"Pick up DJ B-Girl Chillz album "Love of Fate?!" available on iTunes or from www.bgirlmedia.com"

Hip-hop in Olympia. Hide your children. (Photo by Jason Taellious)

Towards the end of the Dead Prez set I turned around and saw security volunteer A and his blonde girlfriend come into the concert with campus police and point

▸ **DEAD PREZ** continues on page 6

Briana Waters' trial in Tacoma and the impact on the Olympia community

by the Olympia Civil Liberties Resource

On February 11, 2008, trial began in the federal government's case against Briana Waters. Ms. Waters, an Evergreen State College graduate and former Olympian, is accused of conspiring to set fire to the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture in 2001. Specifically, the government accuses Ms. Waters of acting as a lookout. Ms. Waters, a violin teacher and 32-year-old mother of a little girl, steadfastly maintains her innocence.

Federal sentences for arsons, including those motivated by greed, insurance fraud, and even racial hatred, typically fall within the 5-7 year range. But if convicted on both counts of which she is charged, Ms. Waters faces a mandatory minimum of 35 years behind bars (five for the arson charge, and 30 for conspiring to use a destructive device).

The case against Briana Waters rests largely on the testimony of two informants, Lacey Phillabaum and Jennifer Kolar. Both informants have pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the arson at the UW and have received leniency in their sentencing for naming and testifying against Briana Waters. The story of the informants is an old one. Ben Rosenfeld in his article "Informant Games, The Disturbing Green Scare Case of Briana Waters," states, "It is well known in the informant game that informants must trade new names for favors, not names the government already has. Inevitably, this leads to the risk that informants will implicate innocent people. In addition, police can easily mold the information they receive from informants into what they want to hear. According to former FBI agent Jack Ryan, who was fired for refusing to go along with the FBI's counterintelligence program against the Plowshares Movement in the 1980s, the FBI "would simply make up the information it wanted to hear and put it in the mouths of informants, real or fictitious."

Briana Waters' case is an example of using media, informants, and fear to put a guilty verdict on her before she has been to trial. In the media, the former US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales led a press conference stating Ms. Waters was guilty. And since 2006, following Ms. Water's arrest, the FBI have attempted to procure informants and evidence from the Olympia community. The use of informants has led to the release of copious amounts of personal data of those involved in specific community organizations deemed threatening by the government. Both the media hysteria and informant games cause further fear in this post 9-11 time. The federal government asserts that our community, the Olympia activist community, is an example of activism that progresses to "terrorism." Through such uses of the media and keywords, the government instills more fear. By this association, any form of free thinking or exercising our first amendment rights creates a platform for "homegrown terrorism." This is an obvious lie to generate more fear, and heralds the underlying message: do not dissent from the current administration.

The federal government asserts that the Olympia activist community is an example of activism that progresses to "terrorism."

Briana Waters should be given fair and balanced court proceedings. But the government, unable to prove their case, has used tactics of coercion, manipulation of evidence, and basic denial of defense's evidence in the courtroom. Rosenfeld states, "According to the filed motion, the federal agents' and prosecutors' misconduct not only violates Ms. Waters' constitutional rights and undermines her defense, it constitutes the crimes of perjury and obstruction of justice. However, the federal judge, Franklin Burgess, has shown no interest in disciplining the government or repairing the damage to Ms. Waters' defense. In his January 7, 2008 order denying the motion, the Judge wrote, without substantiating his findings: 'Nothing in Defendant Waters' assertions about the timing and content of the FBI agents' 302s convinces the Court to conclude that there has been misconduct, intentional failure to disclose, production of a fraudulent 302, or untimely production of discovery.'"

According to one of Ms. Waters' attorneys, Bob Bloom, "The government hand-picked this judge by manipulating court procedures. This is a classic case of a corrupt prosecution, and a judge who apparently chooses to look the other way."

The main point is that the motion to obtain the falsified 302 (informant's testimony) shows the partiality of the court. There deserves to be a fair and balanced trial but Judge Burgess has shown extreme partiality to the government and has continued to do so throughout the trial up to this date. More than once, the judge has denied key witnesses to the defense of Briana Waters, which is denial of her basic constitutional rights. Even when the defense has filed motions for reconsideration, the judge has denied them showing his true colors.

▸ **BRIANA WATERS** continues on page 8

Briana Waters with partner John and daughter Kalliope.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.
WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail.com* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:
WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Correction: In the article "From Annapolis to Gaza: A Cycle of Meaningless Negotiations and Harsh Repression" published in the February 2008 issue, the statement "Since the attack began, only six to eight Israeli has been killed" was incorrect. Actually, six to eight Israelis have been *injured* by the rockets, not killed.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
March 21

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TOO MANY ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Exploratory committee formed to unseat Dicks

Grays Harbor College professor Dr. Gary Murrell and other grass-roots community activists have formed an exploratory committee to "test the waters" in Washington's 6th Congressional District. The committee will assess the support for a challenge by Dr. Murrell as a Green Party candidate to long-time Democratic Congressional hawk, Representative Norm Dicks.

Murrell's exploratory committee recently put up a web site at **www.garymurrell2008.com** to supply more information about the potential candidate's stands on issues and to introduce Dr. Murrell to potential voters in the 6th District. Dr. Murrell's exploratory effort will attempt to determine whether there is enough interest, enough volunteers, enough staff and enough money to challenge the entrenched, corporate, Bush-Democrat.

Thanks to donors!

Once again the local TV airing of Pacifica's ***Democracy Now!*** on TCTV is secure for another year! Great thanks to the individuals below who have contributed financially (for most, *again*) toward achieving this yearly goal for this sixth year for 2008!

Media Island continues to sponsor ***DN!*** on TCTV, and that still requires funding the down-link of the show to the TCTV station for airing; this is where community contributions are needed (DISH Network). This collaboration of progressive thinking people makes this show with it's valuable, independent, global, public interest information available to over 55,000 cable subscribers here in Thurston County!

Democracy Now! on TCTV – Channel 22, twice a day, 5 am and 4 pm, Monday–Friday.

Thank you: Jeanie Mykland, Lyn Hertz, Bob Jacobs, Gita Moulton, Margery Sayre, Stanley Stahl, R. Jay Hershey, Becky Liebman & Charlie Stephens, Janet Swanson, and Peggy Bruton!!!

The occupation continues, the resistance continues

Olympia Port Militarization (PMR) will be meeting on Sunday, March 2 at 4:30 and again on Sunday, March 16 at 4:30 at the Olympia Free School (610 Columbia St, downtown).

PMR expects to see movement of the **5th Stryker Combat Brigade** this spring from Ft. Lewis to Iraq through one of our Ports in the greater Puget Sound area. We are planning a continuum of **civil resistance** in this ongoing illegal occupation of Iraq and encourage participation of all activists committed to diverse styles of Direct Non-Violent Civil Resistance.

Please attend one of our regular 1st-and-3rd-Sundays-of-the-month meetings to join in regional planning strategies.

Raid Response Workshop sponsored by Bridges not Walls

Monday, March 3, 6 pm, The Evergreen State College

Community to Community, the immigration raid response network, will facilitate a raid response workshop at 6 pm at the Evergreen State College. Please join us for this evening of community solidarity. For more info (meeting room) please contact the **Women of Color Coalition** at *wocc.tesc@gmail.com* .

POWER Outage (formerly *WROC Night Out*)

March 3, 5:30 pm, First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia

We start at 5:30 with a potluck, meet from 6 - 8. On Monday, March 3 we will explore the idea of CRAFTIVISM. Join us to work with our hands, knit, quilt, make sock monkeys and talk about revolution!

POWER (Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights, is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated. More info at *welfarerights@riseup.net* or (360) 352-9716, toll free: (866) 343-9716.

Physician and author to speak in Lacey about Jewish and Palestinian trauma and resilience

Tuesday, March 4, 7 pm, St. Martin's University, in the Worthington Conference Center

Broken Promises, Broken Dreams brings to life the voices of people mutually entwined in trauma, and explores individual examples of resilience and resistance.

Dr. Rothchild describes her book as "...an intimate journey grappling with the complicated historical legacy of Israel and Palestine and my relationship to these issues as a Jewish American physician, grounded by the traumas of the Holocaust and my family's passionate love of Israel."

Dr. Rothchild is an obstetrician-gynecologist and an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School. She co-founded and co-chairs the Boston chapter of **Jewish Voice for Peace** and co-organized the **Jewish American Medical Project**. Dr. Rothchild's website is *www.alicerothchild.com*.

The free event is presented by the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice, and cosponsored by the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project and the St. Martin's Political Science/History Department. For more info, contact the Rachel Corrie Foundation at (360) 754-3998 or *info@rachelcorriefoundation.org*.

Draft information session at the Free School

Free information sessions will be held on Wednesday, March 5, and Wednesday, March 19. Each session runs from 6 pm sharp until 7 pm at the Olympia Community Free School, 610 Columbia SW in downtown Olympia.

Each session will explain the current draft law, regulations and procedures. It is designed for young men, especially of registration age, teenaged men (15–17), who will soon be facing draft registration, parents and friends of young men, other people (teachers, religious leaders, counselors, etc.) who connect with young men, and anyone else who cares about peace, human rights, legal rights, conscience, and due process. Free individual counseling about your individual needs can be arranged for a different time and place.

Sponsored by the Thurston County Draft Counseling Center, a local peace-oriented non-profit organization dedicated to informing people and helping them protect their rights. For more info, contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093, *glen@olywa.net*

The Freeschool Community's new volunteer meeting!

Thursday, March 6 & April 3, 6:30–9 pm
The Free School, 610 Columbia St, Olympia

Enjoy free VEGAN and VEGETARIAN pizza while you learn how you can help your community!

VENGAN A LA ESCUELA LIBRE DE OLYMPIA A UNA REUNION PARA VOLUNTARIOS NUEVOS. Disfruta de una cena con pizza estrictamente VEGETARIANA mientras aprendes como puedes ayudar a tu comunidad!

Facilitated by the Freeschool Community Organizers. For more info: *www.freeschoolcommunity.org* .

Resisting the war abroad, resisting the war at home A night of resistance and insurgency

March 7, at The Evergreen State College

Featuring speakers and a documentary on the San Francisco 8, as well as live music and a fundraiser for antiwar activist and "Gold Star" father Carlos Arredondo. ***See page 8 for more details!***

International Women's Day vigil at the Northwest Detention Center, Tacoma

Saturday, March 8

Carpool from Olympia to leave from Harrison & Division on the westside. Support family members of hundreds who have been detained based on unjust immigration policies. Email ***bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net*** for more details.

The Olympia-Rafah Mural Project design work party

Saturday, March 8, 1–4 pm
Olympia Center, rm 400, 222 Columbia St NW

Bring ideas, designs, drawings, photographs to collaborate on a mural composition. We will visually develop these themes: **Resistance, Reconciliation, Return, and Relationships**, within the context of our mural mission: "The Olympia-Rafah Mural Project is a recognition by the people of Olympia of the sister city relationship that exists with the city of Rafah, Palestine. Through the creation of collaborative public murals, we will express our desire for Palestinian self-determination, which is rooted in honoring the common struggles for global justice faced by marginalized people everywhere. By upholding human rights for all, we seek to break down barriers to understanding, increase visibility for Palestinian people, encourage imagination, embrace the hope and courage of Rachel Corrie, and bring people together in one voice for change."

For more info: *mural@rachelcorriefoundation.org* or (360) 754-3998.

Immigration Café in Olympia!

Sunday, March 9, 6 pm
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1515 Harrison Ave NW

Learn about local immigration issues and the realities of the border with Mexico. Connect border enforcement with ICE raids in WA. Presentations by local immigrant groups; film clips of interviews with border solidarity activists. Mexican dinner, vegetarian & vegan options.

$25 donation, no one turned away. Proceeds benefit local families affected by recent ICE raids, support CIELO's ESL program.

▸ **ANNOUNCEMENTS** continue on next page

The role of military families in GI resistance

CONNECT WITH THE GI COMMUNITY IN A FAMILY FRIENDLY RALLY ON MARCH 22

by Seth Manzel

I joined the Army Infantry in 2002 but did not deploy to Iraq until 2004. In the time leading up to deplyoment, my unit took part in many training exercises known as field problems. Many of these were dubious events that were of little value.

One of the first field problems that I ever took part in was a Battalion Field Training Exercise. My part in the event was rather insignificant. My unit was transitioning from being a Light Infantry Unit to one that utilized armored vehicles. My first duty position was as the headquarters LAV (Light Armored Vehicle) driver. Our unit had not received any vehicles yet, so I did not have much to do. In fact, since I didn't have a job, I had no reason to go into the field.

All the same, I found myself in the rain, enjoying the outdoors with everyone else. Once we arrived at the site of our encampment, it became clear that this was an misconceived venture. There was no organization at the company level. The individual platoon leaders picked random spots to dig in with no higher directives to ensure that this was a coherent and mutually supportive exercise.

My platoon set up on an easily defended hill with a view of the surrounding area. Later that night it was determined by the Commanding Officer that my platoon should occupy the lowlands at the foot of the hill and leave the crest of the hill for the imaginary enemy.

After a while all the vehicle crews were gathered from their respective platoons and moved to the company headquarters, since they had no vehicles and were of no use to their platoons. I found myself doing radio guard at various times throughout the night. This was a simple and comfortable duty since the radio was located in a heated vehicle.

In the morning when I woke up I ate the first of the three Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) that I had brought to the field. I ate my second meal for lunch and the third for dinner. By the morning of the second day I had exhausted my issued food supply and started consuming the Ritz crackers and Easy Cheese that I had smuggled in. (This extra food is known in the Army as "Pogey Bait." POGs are "Personnel Other than Grunts," non-infantry personnel—a group of people generally despised by the infantry.)

I ran out of cheese and crackers around dinner time on the third day. There were rumors of hot chow coming soon, but they never materialized. I went wandering in the dark to find some food. I had heard from other soldiers that there was a pallet of MREs that had been dropped off somewhere in a clearing near by.

I wandered in the darkness until I found the pallet. As promised it was stacked with boxes full of MREs. I fumbled around, grasped the smooth edge of the plastic wrapper of an MRE and went back to my sleeping bag (or fart sack as they are referred to in the Service).

When I arrived I could hear moaning in the darkness. I could see writhing sleeping bags under ponchos strung up between trees. As I opened my MRE, I heard a voice warn me that they were all bad. These prepackaged meals that were made to survive nuclear holocausts had somehow spoiled while waiting in the warehouse. The lemon poundcake had hair growing on it. The beef chow mein was rancid. Even the laxative gum was hard like the gum you get in baseball cards. I took out a bag of fossilized Skittles and crunched my way to sleep.

In the morning there were more rumors of hot chow. I set off with several friends to find the place where the cooks had set up, but never found it. I pilfered more rancid MREs for M&Ms and Charms hard candies. By this time, order in the camp was starting to break down. The vehicle crews had taken a tarp from one of the existing vehicles and suspended it between some of the old growth trees to stay dry. The commander had ordered us to take it down, but in the absence of everything that should be present in such a situation, like food, we did not feel compelled to eliminate our one source of comfort.

Eventually married men started turning on the cell phones that they had been forbidden from bringing to the fields and calling their wives. They started telling stories about rotten food and no hot chow. They started telling their wives that they were on a training mission with no training value. The wives were irate.

The Army is not without checks and balances. Army-savvy wives flooded the Inspector General's (IG) office with complaints. They told stories about men vomiting out rancid beef noodles and black bean burritos. The IG office was made aware of hot chow that never came and field problems with no training value.

> The mere act of standing up for one's rights in the Army is enough to slow down a unit's deployment times. The Army could not function if it delivered on all its promises to soldiers and their families.

By the fourth day we had food, real food hot food, brought out in insulated containers, served by real Army cooks. Later that day it was announced that the field problem would be ending early. We piled into utility vehicles and those who couldn't fit marched back. We returned to the barracks and cleaned the weapons made rusty by rain. We ate fresh hot food from the Chow Hall and basked under the warm showers.

All of this took place because of the families of soldiers who were willing to act on their behalf. The value of Army Wives is enormous. When they complain about their soldiers being mistreated their voices are heard. And when their voices are heard it slows down the gears in our war machine. So, among our most effective allies in the fight against this war are the military families. They have a lot of sway over the actions of individual commanders.

One of the events that will be taking place over the Fifth Anniversary of the war in Iraq will be an Easter egg hunt, children's concert, and demonstration outside the gates of Fort Lewis. It will take place on March 22 and will attract many military families. While an Easter egg hunt and children's concert is not the type of event that would normally attract the peace community, this will be a rare opportunity for the peace movement to interface with soldiers and their family members.

For soldiers and their families to engage in resistance requires them to stand up for soldiers' rights. The mere act of standing up for one's rights in the Army is enough to slow down a unit's deployment times. The Army could not function if it delivered on all its promises to soldiers and their families.

In this way a moderate message (stand up for GI rights) could have a radical effect on the military. We don't need to indoctrinate people in the military. If we inform them of their rights, they will come to anti-war conclusions on their own.

So on March 22, moderation should be our watchword. It is not important that every soldier believes that we should impeach Bush or be out of Iraq tomorrow. What is important is that soldiers know that it is okay to stand up for their rights and are given methods to do that. They could be fundamentalist Christians or right wing radicals and still serve the purpose of ending the war simply by looking out for their own self interest.

We should all realize that people in the military are generally either conservative or without political views. Changing these views overnight is a hard fight. Informing them of their rights and how to stand up for them is comparatively easy. We should take this opportunity to make big gains by exercising restraint instead of alienating the military community with radical propaganda.

Note: My use of the male gender is based on the fact that there are no females in the infantry. I am sure that the role of military husbands in military resistance is just as important as the role of military wives.

[**See details of March 22 rally below**]

▸ **ANNOUNCEMENTS** continued

Playback Theatre audition

Monday, March 10, 7:30 pm
Call for location and information

The Heartsparkle Players are looking for male and female ensemble members to join our group. Acting and improvisational experience helpful, but not necessary. Playback Theatre is a form of improvisation in which audience members tell stories from their own experiences and then watch them enacted on the spot. Contact Debe Edden, Artistic Director of the Heartsparkle Players, at (360) 943-6772, *debek@olywa.net*, or visit *www.heartsparkle.org*

Amnesty International's *Human Rights abuses in the "War on Terror" speaker series*: Kevin & Monica Benderman

Thursday, March 13 at 7 pm
The Evergreen State College Longhouse

Amnesty International at The Evergreen State College (AITESC) presents **Kevin Benderman**, a former prisoner of conscience and conscientious objector, and **Monica Benderman**, a writer of critical political essays. Kevin Benderman served in the Army for 10 years, when he developed moral objections to the war in Iraq and refused to deploy there again. He filed for CO status, but was turned down and court martialed. He served 15 months at Ft. Lewis Brig, where his supporters took part in regular vigils to draw attention to his courageous stand. He has since written ***Letters from Ft. Lewis Brig***. AITESC also aims to highlight the enormous Iraqi refugee crisis that US presence in Iraq has created at this event. For more info: *olyamnesty@riseup.net* or (360) 867-6105.

Benefit concert for the Olympia Free School

Friday, March 14, 9 pm
Olympia Free School, 610 Columbia Street

The Winning Lasses, Tin Tree Factory and Redbear will play an all ages show benefiting the Olympia Free School. $3–5 suggested donation.

Playback Theatre performances: *Stories of the Power of Knowledge*

in collaboration with Mason County Literacy
Friday, March 14, 7:30 pm
Traditions, 300 5th Ave SW (downtown Olympia)
Suggested donation $5–10 (No one turned away.)

Each month we invite a guest artist, community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

This month we are collaborating with Mason County (MCL). Incorporated in 1991, Mason County Literacy provides one-on-one and small group tutoring at no cost to adults seeking to improve their reading, math, writing, computer and English language skills.

MCL is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Based in Shelton, MCL collaborates with South Puget Sound Community College to provide a volunteer-based literacy program, Bookends, in Thurston County, with tutoring sites throughout the county.

Garage Sale Extraordinaire to benefit the Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association

Saturday, March 15, 9 am to 3 pm, at the Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria, 21st and Washington, Olympia.

Help yourselves to some great stuff while helping us bring the **9th Community Delegation** to Olympia from Santo Tomas, Nicaragua. Save the dates April 23–May 13 to connect with educators and organizers from our sister town. To donate items or get more info call Jean at 943-8642.

Fifth Anniversary Rachel Corrie Memorial: *From the Middle East to Africa: Dynamics of Destruction and Rebuilding*

Sunday, March 16, 3 to 6pm at the Olympia Ballroom (above the Urban Onion, 116 Legion Way SE)

Join us to remember Rachel and continue her work. Speakers include Evergreen professor of Middle East Studies **Steve Niva**, filmmaker and Palestine solidarity activist **Jen Marlowe** *(see interview on page 5)* and founder of the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities Program in Burundi, **Adrian Niyongabo**.

At the end of the event, we will walk to the water at Percival Landing for a memorial ceremony.

GI Rights Rally

Saturday, March 22, outside the gates of Ft. Lewis
Noon through 4 pm. Meet at Todd Harry Park, 8720 North Thorne Lane SW, Lakewood, WA.

Noon: Resource tables, family friendly activities
1 pm: Participatory discussion—civilians, veterans and soldiers
2 pm: Speakers and music (Iraq veterans and more TBA)
3 pm: March to the gates of Ft. Lewis
3:30 pm: Bannering at I-5 and vigil at the gates
4 pm: Return to park

We will be trying to attract military families and single soldiers to this event. We hope that the peace community can tailor their message to create a comfortable and welcoming environment. For more information, see ***www.givoice.com***. In addition, the GI Voice project has its online radios station up and running at ***www.giradio.com***.

See related article above!

POWER Member/Board meeting

Saturday, March 29th, 11 am, location TBA.

We will accepting nominations for POWER's permanent board. Contact POWER if you would like more information: (360) 352-9716, toll free (866) 343-9716, *welfarerights@riseup.net*

POWER (Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights, is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

Your #1 asset: How to create the health you need to live a successful life

Thursday, April 3
Fertile Ground Studio, 311 9th Ave SE, Olympia

When you look and feel awesome, your life is awesome! When you have energy all day long, you get things done faster and get to spend time doing the things you love. Class is limited to 20 students. Facilitator: Summer Bock. Please register by contacting *communitykitchen@freeschoolcommunity.org*

Free School workshop: Healthy traveling

Monday, April 14, 7 p.m., Fertile Ground Guesthouse, 311 9th Avenue SE, Olympia

If you are planning a vacation this season, it is important to maintain your health on the trip. In this class you will learn tips for successful flying, how to decide which foods and supplements to bring, and where to find nutritious foods at your destination. Make plans for your healthy journey, because vacations should not be a time to get sick. Special emphasis will be on Southeast Asia and Europe. Facilitator: Ava Waits. To register contact *communitykitchen@freeschoolcommunity.org*

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The end of Castro, the future of Cuba

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

After forty-nine years as head of the Cuban state, Fidel Castro has agreed to resign from the office of president and let a "younger generation" take control of the Communist Party of Cuba. For some, Castro's resignation came as a surprise. There were mixed expectations that Fidel would hold on to the reins of power until his death as a symbolic gesture to Cuba's dedication to a one-party socialist state. But for most, the end of the Castro term has been expected. His failing health, the interim-presidential period of his brother, and the murmurs of change coming to Cuba—in the streets of Miami as well as Havana—have made Castro's decision an acknowledgment of the inevitable.

On its face, the event changes little, but the implications of the end of Castro leave many questions open: Will Cuba open itself up politically, economically, or both? What does this mean for the rest of Latin America? Will we finally see an end to the US economic embargo which has crippled the country for decades?

It is impossible to answer any of these questions with certainty, but history and context can provide us with some possible directions. First, it is important to acknowledge both the shortcomings and successes of the Cuba revolution and the single-party state that was instituted to protect it. Despite the rhetoric from the Cuban government, the Cuban state is—in the words of Human Rights Watch –"a repressive machine." There are severe restrictions on major civil and political rights, including the right to freedom of speech, assembly, due process, and the continued use of the death penalty.

At the same time, the Cuban system has provided several economic, social and cultural rights that are seriously lacking in the Western hemisphere, such as free medical care and education through university level. More important is the role Cuba has played in becoming the first country in the Western hemisphere that was truly sovereign from the United States. Despite years of US-sponsored terrorism and a crushing embargo which has been continually condemned around the world, "Yankee imperialism" has never been able to stick in Cuba. The Communist Party in Cuba may not give the Cuban people control of their government, but it does ensure that they have sovereign control of their country. It is for this reason that Cuba has occupied a special place in the hearts and minds of many Latin Americans. Cuba is an example that a Latin American state can be independent of the region's sole superpower.

Because the threat of imperialism always hangs over the Cuban people, they have been willing to accept a repressive communist system. They fear that any divergence from it would provide an avenue for the United States to take control of the country and return them to a colony for the Italian Mafia and US businesses. Of course there is truth to the fear, but it is also exploited at every chance by the Cuban Community Party. The embargo, the primary US tool for crippling Cuba, has become a symbol for "gringo control" of the country. In order to detract from its own failings, the Cuban Communist Party manages to blame all problems in Cuban society on the embargo and in doing so they redirect criticism towards the United States. If the purpose of the embargo has been to support democratic movements in Cuba, it has failed miserably.

[For many Latin Americans,] Cuba is an example that a Latin American state can be independent of the region's sole superpower.

But a foreign policy of failure vis a vis Cuba has always been the norm in the United States, and continues to be. President Bush has announced that the end of Fidel's tenure will not lead to any lifting of the embargo, and there is little reason to expect change from any of the current presidential hopefuls. McCain has committed himself to taking a strong stance against Cuba; Clinton has taken more moderate approach in rhetoric but offers no real policy difference; Obama has conceded to a loosening-up of certain parts of the embargo—travel and money for Cubans living in the United States—but not ending it.

The fact that American political elites remain so committed to the embargo is quite a curious phenomenon considering that American economic elites have become divided on the matter. While some still insist on the need for toppling any communist competitors, others realize that Cuban tobacco and tourism provide excellent investment opportunities. In addition, the chance to drill oil off Cuba's coast seems like a possibility that is too good to pass up. We may see an end to the embargo, not out of humanitarianism but, ironically, because a consensus may form among American capitalists that prohibiting investment in a tropical communist regime is just bad business.

In the end, the future of Cuba really rests with two main populations: the people of Cuba and the people of the United States. If the people of Cuba are to truly realize the dreams of their revolution, they should throw off the yoke of communist bureaucracy and dedicate them selves to the worker-control model of socialism that Castro originally supported rhetorically, but never politically. At the same time, the people of the United States must realize that if they are to truly demonstrate any real commitment to democracy, then they must ensure that their government takes a hands-off approach to the affairs of its neighbors, allowing those countries to develop according to the will of their own people, not US elites.

Oly expat Marco Rosaire Rossi (not pictured above) is a frequent contributor to Works in Progress.

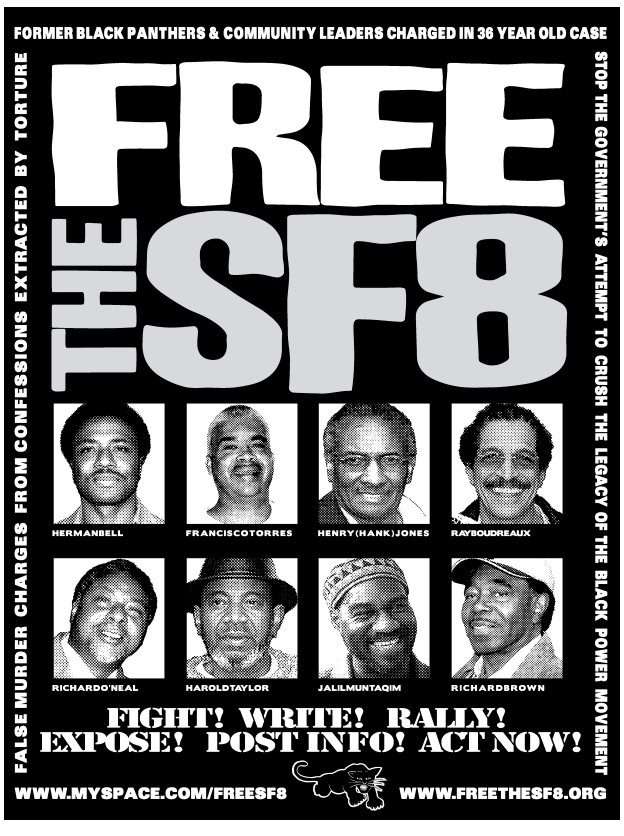
March 7: Resisting the war abroad, resisting the war at home

by Brendan Maslauskas Dunn

In 1975, three members of the Black Panther Party were charged for the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer. It was soon discovered in the courts that confessions by two of the Panthers were taken only after seven days of torture that police agents in New Orleans, New York, San Francisco and federal agents were responsible for. Some of the torture included the use of electric shock, cattle prods, beatings, sensory deprivation, plastic bags, and hot, wet blankets for asphyxiation. The charges were soon thrown out because confessions extracted under torture, as we have seen in cases of detainees at Guantanamo, are neither legal nor credible.

The framing of the Panthers was part of a broader strategy undertaken by the Justice Department and FBI called COINTELPRO—a program which was created to eliminate and neutralize leftist and revolutionary political opposition in the late 1960s–70s. The Black Panther Party was one of COINTELPRO's main targets, and the Party's leaders soon found themselves in prison, in court, in exile, tortured, or assassinated.

In 2007, the three Panthers originally charged in the 1970s with killing the police officer were rounded up and thrown in jail yet again, this time along with five other Panthers and supporters of the Panthers. Although the "evidence" initially used against them was extracted by torture, it was brought up again to charge all eight men, known as the San Francisco 8 (SF8), with the same crime they did not and could not have committed. Many of the same police officers and agents that were involved with the case in the '70s are once again working to imprison the Panthers. This case is significant because it's not just an attack on the individual Panthers, but on the legacy and memory of the entire Black Panther Party and struggle for Black liberation. It's also significant because it is part of a process of the normalization of torture of Americans in the psyche of the American public. The repercussions of this case are far and wide in scope.



In Atlanta this summer, members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) from the Pacific Northwest and Florida met with former political prisoners who were in the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. A discussion there started about how SDSers could support the San Franciso 8, and this fall, Olympia SDS started with support work by having a benefit show for the SF 8. Several bands from Olympia and Tacoma performed at the Eagle's Hall and captain of the Seattle Black Panther Party and former Green Party candidate for US Senate Aaron Dixon also spoke. Over $400 were raised for the SF8.

We are now fortunate to bring a member of the SF 8 to Olympia as part of a speaking tour in the Northwest. On March 7 at 6pm in Lecture Hall 1 at Evergreen, SDS along with the National Lawyers Guild, NAACP, the Racial Disparity Project, and the Black Genealogy Research Group, will host a panel discussion about the SF 8, the Black Panther Party, COINTELPRO, and many other issues. Panelists will include Hank Jones who is an elder and a defendant in the SF 8. He refused to testify before the San Francisco grand jury two years ago, and was imprisoned during the life of the grand jury for his principled refusal to cooperate, and in January 2007 was charged with the killing of the SF police officer in 1971. The panel will also include Maisha Quint of the Committee to Free the Eight and veteran of the Black Panther Party and Seattle George Jackson Brigade Mark Cook. Claude Marks, who directed the film about the SF 8, *Legacy of Torture*, will also speak on the panel and screen his 28 minute film.

Directly following the panel discussion and film screening at 8pm will be a show in Lecture Hall 1 dubbed "Night of Musical Insurgency." Folk musician David Rovics will perform along with Danny Kelly and Mark Eckert from the psychedelic acoustic folk group Heliotroupe. The three musicians are helping raise money for Carlos Arredondo, who made national news after hearing that his twenty year old son Marine Lance Corporal Alexander Arredondo was killed in Iraq. Carlos was lit on fire but has since recovered and become an antiwar activist, travelling across the country to tell the story of his son, even making a stop at Camp Quixote in Olympia last year. There will also be a potluck hosted by the Olympia Islamic Center. Donations anywhere between zero and ten dollars are requested for Carlos Arredondo.

Members of Olympia SDS are fully aware of the moratorium the administration is putting on events like this as a result of the Valentine Day "riot", but are going to put it on regardless because it's a matter of free speech.

The entire event is being headlined as "Resisting the War Abroad, Resisting the War at Home," to show the connections between the root causes and effects of wars waged abroad and the war constantly being waged at home, especially on poor people, people of color and immigrants.

The root causes for wars waged by this government abroad and at home can be found in the development and enforcement of colonialism domestically, imperialism globally and the constant drive for the accumulation of profit, resources and sustained hegemony.

The effects can be seen, in this case, in the death of Alexander Arredondo and the wounds inflicted on his father Carlos, and in the systematic attempt by the US government and police in this country to eliminate groups like the Black Panther Party.

Brendan Maslauskas Dunn is a member of SDS. You can reach SDS at olympiasds@riseup.net. *More information on the SF 8 can be found at* www.freetheSF8.org.

Interview with Jen Marlowe

by Chris Allert

Jen Marlowe is the author of *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival* (Nation Books), which is included in the Best American Non-Required Reading Collection 2007. (*www.darfurdiaries.org*) She is directing and editing Rebuilding Hope, a film about South Sudan, (*www.rebuildinghopesudan.org*) and writing a book and a play about Palestine and Israel. Her previous film was *Darfur Diaries: Message from Home*. She serves on the board of directors of The Friends of the Jenin Freedom Theatre (*www.friendsofthejeninfreedomtheatre.org*) and is a founding member of the Rachel's Words initiative (www.rachelswords.org). Her writing can be found online in *The Nation*, *Alternet* and *Counterpunch*. She will be speaking at the Fifth Annual Rachel Corrie Memorial on March 16 at the Olympia Ballroom. *(See announcement on page 2 for details.)*

How did you begin to care about Palestine?

Starting to care about Palestine came from being taught that I was supposed to care about Israel. I'm Jewish. I grew up being very active in the Reform Jewish movement, and went to Reform Jewish youth group and camp. I was not taught anything about Palestinians in the Israel education I got growing up. I wasn't taught that they were terrorists, or anything like that. But Palestinians were completely absent from the narrative we were taught in camp and in Hebrew school. We were taught simply that Israel was good, that they were the people that turned the desert green.

I never thought about it much until after I went to spend a year in Jerusalem 1997 on a Dorot Foundation Fellowship to Israel. Almost immediately when I arrived I began to confront the real situation. On my second day in Jerusalem I had some long conversations with Palestinian merchants I met in the Souq in the Old City. I heard people talking about how another intifada was going to erupt, about occupation and what that meant. I had only heard what I had learned in camp, and what I saw on CNN, and it was not at all connected to what people were saying here. So for me, becoming concerned about this was obvious. I didn't know, and now I know. I have to find out more about this, and I have to figure out how I can respond to it.

When you heard the play "My Name Is Rachel Corrie" was cancelled by the New York Theater Workshop in March 2006, what did you think and how did you feel about it?

I felt first and foremost devastated for Cindy and Craig [Corrie]. I heard the news from Cindy even before the story broke. I remembered how excited she was about the whole process of the play happening. She gave me a copy of the script right after it was perfomed in London, and I sat in her living room reading it, I was completely blown away by what I was reading.

Before then, I had only read Rachel's dispatches from Gaza. The play opened up this whole other window into who Rachel was. Obviously I know Rachel's writing doesn't capture who she was as a person, I can't ever say that I now know Rachel because of what I've read, but I've had insight into a piece of her, which was her writings. The play was the beginning of that. It was extremely powerful, and I felt very protective of the play. This is extremely important, the things that Rachel was saying, writing about her evolution as a person in the world. So on a personal level, I felt devastated, thinking about what this cancellation would do to Cindy and Craig.

But I wanted to respond on another level, as well, from my belief that it is important for this play to be heard, it was important to resist efforts to suppress this voice, and generally to resist the growing climate of fear and intimidation that's been so pervasive. And it's really wonderful that the play is now having successful performances all over the US and the world!

How many times have you been to Rafah? What is it like there?

The first time I'd been to Rafah was about six months after Rachel was killed. I think I've been to Rafah about four or five times now, and to other places in the Gaza Strip many more.

My first trip to Rafah is imprinted on my brain. It's among the most depressing places I've been to in the world, and this includes Afghanistan, and Darfur. I'd been to Jenin refugee camp just a few weeks after it was flattened in 2002. In Rafah, I remember standing not far from where Rachel was killed. The Nasrallah house was still standing then, but everything else around it was destroyed. Bulldozers were at work, pushing away the rubble of destroyed houses. There was something about the continuous, slow, grinding, steady destruction that was so depressing. And, of course, in the midst of that, are thousands and thousands of people insisting on continuing to live their lives, to think about their children's futures, which is incredible.

What are your impressions of the Nasrallah family?

What struck me the most is the effort they put into making sure that their children have cheer and joy. You saw the pictures of Flat Stanley with them. I showed them this paper doll, and Dr. Samir's face lit up. He was doing silly poses with the kids, trying to make his children laugh and encouraging them to be as silly as possible. They understand that in the midst of all the trauma that is life in Rafah—if your kids are going to have a shot at being healthy, they need to play, they need to laugh, they need to be silly. They take this really seriously, it seemed to me. Both Khalid and Dr. Samir make sure, very intentionally, that their children laugh. That's some pretty phenomenal parenting.

I understand you've read "Let Me Stand Alone: The Journals of Rachel Corrie". Can you talk about the book?

I probably read the manuscript six or seven times. Every single time I would read it, I'd find myself having to put it down to contemplate further something that Rachel wrote or to think about a question that she posed. Even at the point where I was supposed to be only checking for typos, even then I'd find myself distracted from my search for misplaced commas by something I read.

To me that's a sign of really important writing. It challenges us. My world-view is probably somewhat similar to Rachel's, but I was also challenged, I was pushed, I was stretched in really wonderful ways by what I was reading.

You've been to a lot of places besides Palestine. What drew you to Africa? What connects all the places you've been together?

My engagement in the world started in Palestine and in Israel. The more exposure I had to that conflict, and then the more exposure I had to other places, including Sudan and Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the more I began to see how connected the underlying issues are. That's how my focus expanded. The issues in Palestine and Israel have a lot of similarities to the issues in many other places.

Specifically what led me to Darfur was responding to the growing atrocities there that at the time were not being covered by the mainstream media. Two colleagues of mine were going over there to make a film, and I became a part of that project. That has deepened my involvement in not just Darfur, but in all Sudan, and that's connected to Chad and Kenya and beyond. It's all interconnected.

Jen Marlowe and Sima, holding Flat Stanley. (Photo by Jen Marlowe)

It's hard to put things in a nutshell, but basically what I believe connects these places are structures in the world of power and privilege. Who has access to that? Who doesn't? How are people trying to get access to that? How are those who have it trying to maintain and expand it? And who pays the price? Whether you're looking at it on a very local level and or at a global level, these questions apply.

I feel hopeful when I see struggles for human dignity and liberation finding connections to other similar struggles. If we are going to challenge the constructs of power and privilege in any real way, then we have to connect different struggles. Otherwise we'll continue to stamp out little fires here and there while we're being engulfed in a huge flame. So things like women stitching Che Guevara wall hangings in Rafah is a small signal of those kinds of connections that are important to nurture and to foster.

I'm working on a book right now with a colleague who spent 10 years in Israeli Prison, and then spent the next 10 years of his life working toward non-violent peace and justice and reconciliation work. He told me that in the 1970s, that the example of Vietnam really fed the Palestinian national liberation movement. The Vietnamese ability to shake off America provided a huge source of inspiration for Palestinians wanting to shake off the Israeli occupation.

When you were in Palestine, was there anything people there wanted to say to people here?

Well, I didn't ask that specific question. The question that I was asking more was, "What can we do to work in solidarity with you?"

People had lots of ideas, but there was very sadly a sense of frustration, a questioning of how much of an impact we can really have. I think it meant a lot to people that I was there asking those questions because it was a sign that the isolation imposed on Palestinians in Gaza is not complete and will never be complete as long as there are those of us in the outside world who insist on paying attention, and who fight against the right to starve and crush 1.5 million people into some kind of submission.

Did you get a chance to talk to anyone in Rafah about the Sister City project?

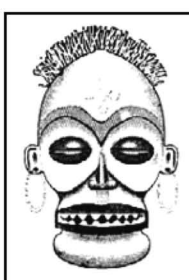
Definitely. People and organizations that I met with in Rafah see themselves as being a part of a connection between Rafah and Olympia. Where we got the embroidery is one such place. That project grew out of the Rafah-Olympia sister city project. The Rachel Corrie Center for Children and Youth also wants to work on connections between youth in Rafah and youth in Olympia. What seemed important to the people I met was being able to link the people and projects. I didn't get the sense that an official seal of approval was what mattered so much as really developing those relationships and doing work through those relationships.

What do you think we can do in this country?

I can't give a laundry list of how to change the world. I'm asked this question a lot when I talk about Darfur. I consciously don't give recommendations of specific tasks because I don't want to encourage spoon-fed activism, where we can sign a petition or go to a demonstration, and then pat ourselves on the back and feel absolved rather than truly engaging in the long and difficult struggle.

When it comes to specifically resisting the seige on Gaza, there are lots of specific actions you can take, and there has been some success. The Palestinian-International Campaign to Break the Siege got a convoy of humanitarian aid through Karni Crossing just a few days ago. The convoy was stopped a month ago. With weeks and weeks of work on it, and getting the UN involved, they got the convoy in.

But more than recommending a specific action, I want to challenge people to make the choice of whether or not and, more importantly, how they are going to take part in the struggle. Because you are a part of what's happening in this world. Even if you do nothing, you're still a part of it.



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▸ **DEAD PREZ** continued from page 1

out my friend who had helped break up the 6-on-1 fight outside. The police officer handcuffed my friend and walked him to the front of the CRC and then outside the main entrance where she put him in the back of her car. I followed trying to explain to the police officer that my friend did nothing wrong but she said three people had already told her that he had punched some people. I told her that was completely false and there was much more to the story, but she had already made up her mind he was guilty. When we arrived outside in the front of the CRC three students were yelling at the man with dreads for his role in the fight. They yelled at him for going out of his way to get the police involved, and for doing what he did to "get this man arrested." The man with dreads claimed that he was the person who "put the show on" and that he was trying to keep the concert under control. It turned into a heated exchange between the Dead Prez fans against this alleged concert organizer and his "security volunteers." The fans were angry about how the man with dreads and his security volunteers had handled the situation; the fans were calling them "snitches" and not real Dead Prez fans.

The security volunteers were extremely proud of the way they handled the situation. I can recall the blonde woman saying, "I ain't scared of any of you motherfuckers," and asking if anyone wanted "a piece of me." Her boyfriend, security volunteer A, yelled, "This is my job, this is what I do and I love it!"

After that the man in the gray sweatshirt came up to me and said the situation shouldn't have gone that far and admitted he didn't think my friend deserved to be arrested. I told him he should tell it to the arresting officer, and he walked over to the officer and had a conversation with her.

The arresting officer continued with the arrest and attempted to drive off when some fans decided to block her vehicle. At this point, there were about 15 fans actively and peacefully participating in either questioning or trying to stop the arrest.

Fifteen minutes later, 3 or 4 Thurston County sheriffs arrived. The sheriffs were very professional. They listened to what the people were saying; they were very calm and appeared to be trying to resolve the problem. I explained to one of the sheriffs that there had been a fight and the arrested man was merely trying to break up the fight where one person was being beaten up by six, and that he did not deserve to be arrested. That sheriff went to talk to the arresting officer but she was intent on arresting the individual. He came back and said there was nothing he could do because it was her arrest. I told him it would be safer if she just took his name and released him because the crowd was growing bigger and more agitated. He agreed but said it wasn't his call.

At this point the concert was over and fans just getting outside were starting to join in. People were chanting, "let him go, let him go," and had the police car surrounded. Then the Olympia Police Department (OPD) arrived. OPD immediately started hitting people who had surrounded the car with batons. This caused the fans to start throwing bottles and rocks and sticks and garbage cans back at the police. The police then used pepper spray. The crowd's anger was obviously growing so the police decided to release the arrested man. The situation calmed down a little bit, even though some fans were still throwing things but the situation seemed to be ending. The officers left and left one car behind. About 10 or 15 of the angriest fans, most of whom were wearing masks, kicked in the windows, then flipped over the car and the rest is history.

I wrote this because the truth about the events leading up to the destruction of the car is important. The security guards who are allegedly under the employ of the hip hop congress were unprofessional and provocative. In my life, I have been around some terrible security but I can honestly say without hesitation that these were the most power tripping, violent, disruptive, antagonistic and dysfunctional security I have ever witnessed; and Evergreen would be wise to never hire them again. I want to point out that in a fight involving several white people, the one African American, who was breaking up the fight, was the only one arrested. In addition, the TESC police officer listened to only one side of the fight and then walked into the middle of the concert and arrested someone. She seemed to have no interest in trying to hear the entire story nor did she stop to think that her handcuffing a fan in the middle of a show and then putting him in a cop car at the only entrance for everyone to see might upset the crowd. If she had just taken my friend's information and released him the evolving situation would have been avoided. She used no common sense whatsoever. She kept saying that it was just misdemeanor assault and that it wasn't that big of a deal. If that was the case, then why all the effort to arrest him in the first place? Finally, I want to point out that the second back up police team, the Olympia Police, came in swinging batons and using pepper spray. I know little about police procedure but it seemed they had no reservation or thought before they used violence. There is no doubt some fans were acting inappropriately but the cops should have anticipated that if they attacked the crowd, there was a good chance the crowd was going to fight back.

> It will be too easy to finger those who turned over the car, and try to say that the problem is solved.

I write this because the *Olympian*, the local TV news, and reaction from the community, have all been negative towards Dead Prez, their fans, and The Evergreen State College, in general. I think Olympia should be proud that Evergreen produces the kind of people who are not scared to stand up against injustice. I do not agree with the cop cruiser being destroyed, but I saw that as a reaction to idiotic "security volunteers" and violent police officers, neither of whom used any common sense.

—*February 17, 2008*

Eyewitness account #2

This is a detailed view of the events that unfolded after the Dead Prez concert outside of the College Recreation Center (CRC) at The Evergreen State College (TESC) on February 14, 2008.

My positions during these events were on top of the hill overlooking the entrance to the CRC, and then to the right of the events that unfolded, to the right of the entrance to the lobby on the way down to the path that leads to the Children's Center. So my view encompassed the whole area where the events of the night took place during the first part of the event and then down to the right of the last of what happened.

The Dead Prez show was almost over when I went out of the back bay, walking toward the lobby, to use the restroom. While exiting the gym area, coming into the lobby, I was confronted by a friend who told me that a person, who had nothing to do with the fight, was put into the back of an Evergreen State College Police car. I asked for more information, and I was told that the show promoter pointed out the person, in the back of the squad car, as being involved with the fight that took place at the show. My friend told me that, the person in the squad car was only trying to break up the fight and was not a part of the main altercation.

I proceeded from the lobby walking outside where I watched around 15 to 20 people talking to the officer. I walked up the stairs, to the top of the hill, and looked back to see more and more people starting to come out. I went to my car and grabbed my cell phone to call my cousin who was back at the show. In a span of 20 minutes, I walked to my car in B lot and as I was walking back to the CRC I saw 5 Olympia Police squad cars, in B lot, trying to find a way to get to the CRC. They could not find a way and a police officer got out of his squad car and said "Hey, where's the party at?" Before I answered he jumped back into the car to follow the other cars as they exited B lot. Thinking something bad was going to happen, I rushed back to the CRC to find my cousin. I spotted her on her way out, next to the COM Building, and I asked what was going on back at the CRC. She didn't reply because all we could hear were the words, "let him go," coming from the CRC. I decided to go back to the CRC to see what was taking place.

I came to the edge of the hill to see a sea of people surrounding the Evergreen Police Squad car. It was clear that the people were demanding that the person, inside of the squad car, be let go. From my point of view, to the right of me, where the pathway goes to the children's center, Olympia Police and Thurston County Sheriffs were entering as everyone was saying, "let him go!" I saw the lone Evergreen Police officer beside her car being overwhelmed by the massiveness of the people chanting in unison. As the chants were getting louder, Thurston County and Olympia police were taking positions around one third of the crowd. There were only about 4 to 6 officers that approached the scene. Only 2 out of the 6 police officers had pepper spray and, without warning, they discharged pepper spray to the back of the crowd, around the back end of the squad car, and the other to the side of the car that was facing the CRC.

> If we are to take accountability seriously we need to look at the debacle throughout the whole series of events—not just at the end.

This broke apart the crowd but it only did for a short time. As people were regrouping I saw people being taken out of the crowd, in what looked like an altercation to the side of the car facing the CRC. What took place was unclear because it was out of my view, but I saw people gathering around the altercation.

As people were regrouping at the back of the car, I heard garbage cans being knocked over and the sounds of bottles hitting the ground as the garbage was spread out over the ground. There were 2 officers pepper spraying the crowd and another pulling people away from the car near the front end, as the car started to lurch forward. The 4 to 6 officers created a pathway for the car to leave. The squad car was leaving and as it was leaving, people started throwing trash at the car. Out of all the trash thrown, only one glass bottle was thrown that I saw, and it landed on the car without breaking.

The Evergreen Squad Car left the entrance area and the group of people followed as Thurston County and Olympia police sprayed the people in the front who were blocking the way. The Evergreen Squad Car left, and 2 officers were standing by another car trying to break the crowd apart with pepper spray. Two police officers were hit by trash and plastic bottles, causing them to back up. This forced them to exit the scene. One officer got into the car and the other backed up to the line of Olympia and Thurston County officers. They abandoned one car at the scene because they could not get back to it as they retreated. I saw no attempt to start the car as the police were being overwhelmed by the massiveness of the crowd. They left, abandoning a Thurston County Sheriff's squad car. I cannot pinpoint when and how the destruction of the car happened because I was moving around trying to talk to as many people as possible about the events that had just taken place.

As I was walking around, all I could hear was the car being beaten on and glass breaking. I went to see what was taking place and as I came up to the group of people, I saw the car being flipped over by 20 or so people. At this moment, I was afraid because I knew the police would be back. I decided to leave, knowing the police would be back with more people.

—*Signed, "An innocent bystander*
February 17, 2008"

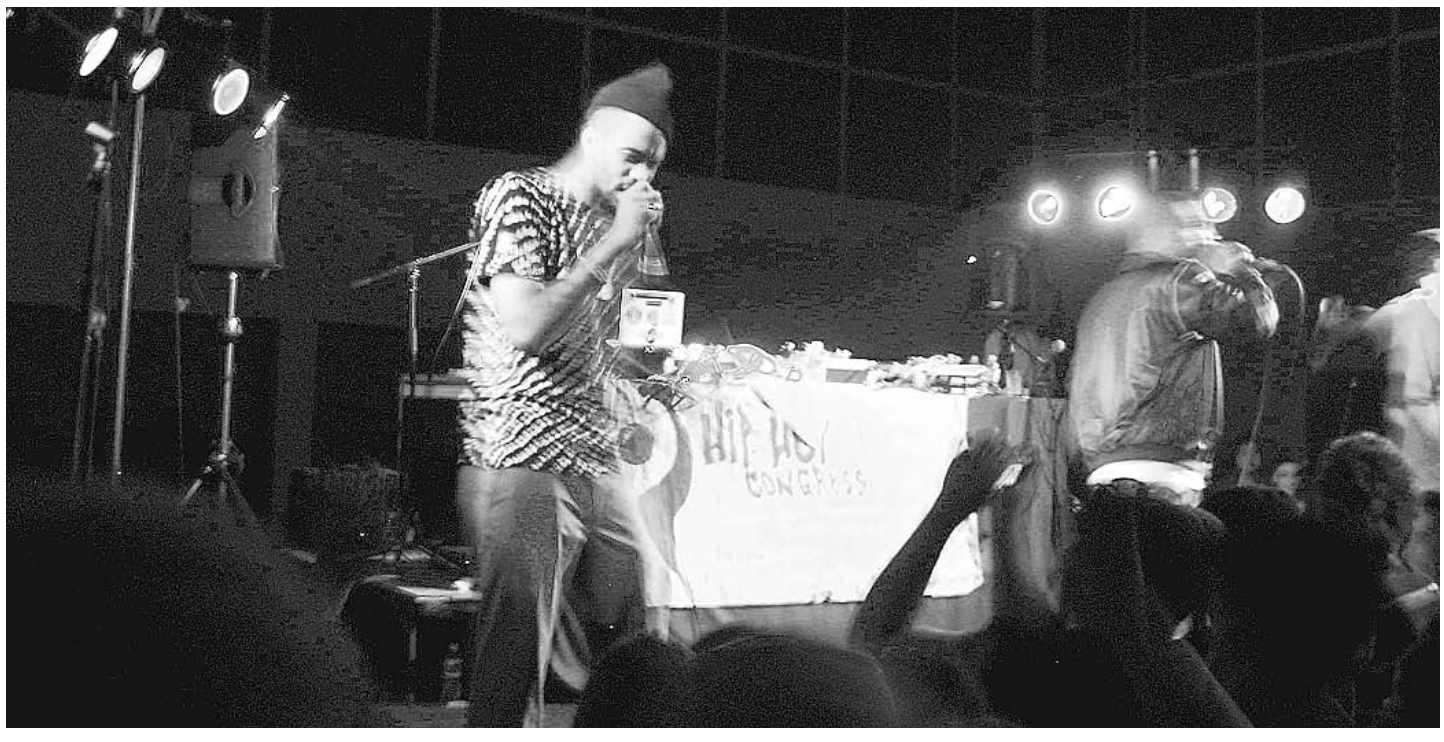
Eyewitness account #3

As I was standing near an organization's tabling display I witnessed a young black man being escorted by a female officer out of the left side of the CRC gym. The last act of performers, Dead Prez, was on the stage. A crowd of 10 or more people proceeded to follow the officers as she escorted the man in handcuffs out the front doors. Moments later a friend came out from the performance. I asked what had happened and she said that there had been a fight, which resulted in a woman calling the cops and identifying the aggressor as a young black male. Another witness stated that when the officer entered the show she did not attempt to question the young man but instantly put him under arrest.

As the crowd continued to disperse from the show and exit out the front of the building, people were stating that the officer had the wrong man and made accusations of racial profiling and racism.

I proceeded to go back into the show for the remaining three songs. Afterwards I walked across the gym to acknowledge the performers. People who helped organize the show and one of the members of Dead

▸ **DEAD PREZ** continues on next page



stic.man of Dead Prez at The Evergreen State College, February 14, 2008. (Photo by Brendan McGarry)

An Evergreen professor explains his sensationalized comments

by Pete Bohmer

I would like to expand and explain more the comments I made at the February 19, 2008, noon forum called by Evergreen President Les Purce to discuss the events connected to the Dead Prez concert. Although I did not attend the concert, I have spoken to many eyewitnesses and I am also relying on the eyewitness accounts collected and posted by Tony Zaragoza, Tuesday morning on the TESC Talk mailing list [and reprinted here on page 1]. President Les Purce in setting terms for this forum in his opening comments, focused on the overturning of the police car, not what led up to it. This is similar to what the *Olympian* newspaper did in their sensationalist reporting on February 16. They both omitted or downplayed the context.

1) So-called security people who tried to grab someone for smoking what may have been a marijuana joint. If they had not tried to physically grab this person, it would have been a really powerful and peaceful evening with socially relevant music. These "security people" picked a fight, escalated the situation, and acted in a very aggressive manner.

2) The only person detained by the Evergreen police officer was not a major participant in the fighting, and was the only African-American near the fighting. Other people told the officer the person detained was not central to the fighting and may have been trying to break up the fight, yet she ignored that evidence. Racism is far more than intent. Whether or not the Evergreen police officer is racially prejudiced, I am sure she does not intend to be—the effect of her actions was to single out an African-American based on incomplete evidence and handcuff him while the whites who very involved in the fighting were her main witnesses.

3) The growing crowd outside the CRC was at first peaceful although loud and asked for the person detained for the charge of misdemeanor assault and in handcuffs to be let go. This is commendable--to show support and solidarity for an unjustly arrested person.

4) At least one of the Thurston County Sheriffs who arrived said they believed the person detained should be released. The Evergreen police officer refused to do so. This would have ended the growing confrontation as the crowd would have met its objectives and had not yet been subject to any police violence.

5) The growing crowd blocked the police car but they were not doing property damage or any violence. The Olympia Police Department then arrived and began clubbing people. A few members of the crowd reacted by throwing empty water bottles at the attacking police who responded by firing large amounts of pepper spray or mace with no warning whatsoever. During this time, the person who had been detained was released but by now the crowd was much angrier because of being attacked by the police and some were no longer satisfied by the person's release.

6) The police and sheriffs retreated leaving a police car behind which was turned over and trashed.

The behavior mainly being criticized and discussed is what occurred after the Olympia police began clubbing people, and makes invisible what happened before. This is why words such as "mob" and "violent behavior" are used. Actions have causes. We need to analyze the whole set of events and past and present police behavior.

President Purce and many others at the Tuesday noon forum talked about the Evergreen community. But a healthy and real community must be based on equality—not where one side makes the rules and has the guns and the power to arrest and imprison people.

Whether one supports the overturning and destruction of the police car, it needs to be contextualized, and people should not be facing prison time or felony charges over what happened last Thursday night. The person detained should not be charged with any crime. We need to have a real community discussion and about what happened, democratic decision-making about possible consequences and policy changes for the future. Are some police going to be charged, disciplined for assaulting people with clubs and pepper spray? I am certain they won't be.

The top administration at Evergreen and the Evergreen police force is working with various law enforcement agencies to try to identify people for prosecution. If we had a community that dealt with problems internally and democratically, then we could be open and cooperative. However, given the growing attempt by those in power, nationally, to criminalize those who resist injustice, and their attempts to limit protest, we should not cooperate with this investigation and ask that our administration at Evergreen not pursue a witch-hunt and not select scapegoats; and that they not press charges against the person detained or others present last Thursday night during or after the concert.

The larger context is a society that is more and more unequal, a government waging an immoral war in Iraq, one that openly tortures people and is becoming more and more repressive, e.g., attacks on immigrants, the Patriot Act, more and more surveillance. Dead Prez is speaking about these injustices and oppression. Let us invite and welcome them back.

Let us think more about the consequences of our actions and explain better to members of the Evergreen and broader Olympia community our ideas and actions. Let us also oppose the collaboration of the Evergreen administration and some students and staff with police agencies, as this will result in the arrest and prosecution of people who were reacting to provocation.

This is why I suggested at the forum called by President Purce, non-cooperation and remaining silent if questioned by law enforcement or TESC administrators and staff working with law enforcement.

▸ **DEAD PREZ** continued from previous page

Prez, among other community members, were having a conversation by the back door to the stage. While talking about the show someone came up and announced that the crowd of people outside was surrounding the police car. I decided to make my way out of the building. As I walked out the doors I saw a crowd of people in a circle and heard them chanting 'Let Him Go!!' I noticed everyone was gathered in a peaceful manner, simply chanting their request. I continued up the stairs and stopped where I could get a full view. I saw a line of 5 or more police cars sitting idle with their lights off. As the people chanted a few were rapping their fists on the police car.

At one point the officers exited their cars and in formation approached the circle of people. In riot gear they marched toward the civilians and proceeded to divide the crowd, pushing and shoving people out of the way. The man who was detained in the back of the cop car was released. As the cops approached the left rear of the police car, one officer took the first act of violence by pepper spraying the civilians, point blank. Once one officer began pepper spraying, other officers followed. This caused people to disperse.

Individuals began reacting by throwing bottles. I saw a garbage can thrown. Someone opened up a door on the side of the CRC and individuals were grabbing objects and throwing them. At this point, I began to feel the effects of the pepper spray that was lingering in the air and a lack of safety due to the level of violence and aggression that I was witnessing, so I left the scene.

—February 17, 2008

There have been calls for accountability from the Friday morning after the "riot." The principle of accountability is of utmost importance here. A major worry is that the official response to the Feb. 14 debacle will apply the principle of accountability selectively and narrowly.

From the beginning the focus has been on the overturning of the police vehicle. This is obviously important, but by no means can it be the only focus. If we get caught up in the media's spin or the stories provided or guided by public relations, we will not get to the bottom of what happened. I think most people in this community want to understand fully—not partially—what happened, how it happened and why.

It was for this reason I began to investigate and seek out eyewitness accounts. If we are to take accountability seriously we need to look at the debacle throughout the whole series of events—not just at the end. Examining the whole process through the lenses of accountability would require us to examine some key points in the series of events that are not being fully included in official circles. These include 1) how the security reacted during the show, 2) how the Evergreen officer handled pulling someone out of a concert and arresting him, 3) when the police violence began in the form of clubs and pepper spray, 4) whether police violence may have increased the tension and further provoked emotions on the scene, and 5) why the officers would abandon their vehicle. Of course there are others. Further study of the edited footage that has been released by The Evergreen State College Geoduck Union as of February 21 will be necessary to fully understand these key points.

It will be too easy to finger those who turned over the car, and try to say that the problem is solved. It will be much harder to examine the actions of all parties and subject them to the process of community accountability. If we really want to heal some of the wounds that have been exposed and renew some sense of community, we will have to choose the more difficult road. Or, I fear, we'll merely be covering over some key issues to satisfy a simplistic urge to punish whoever possible and put it all behind us.

Footage of the Feb. 14 incident is available at *www.youtube.com/user/geoduckunion* and *www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_74VEfgsXA*

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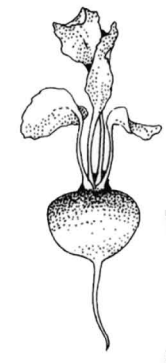

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LA-8 defendant and filmmaker discuss civil liberties victory

by Therese Saliba

For the last twenty years, Michel Shehadeh was accused by the US government of being a terrorist. In 1987, he was arrested in an early morning raid by armed federal agents in Los Angeles along with 6 other Palestinian men and a Kenyan woman. They were jailed for 23 days in a maximum security cell, then released while the government tried to deport them. Through numerous court rulings and appeals, their case made it to the Supreme Court . On October 30, 2007, after what Shehadeh describes as "20 grueling years," the federal government dropped all charges against the LA-8.

Shehadeh and filmmaker Joan Mandell told their story at the SESAME 5th Annual Middle East Film Festival on Feb. 2. Mandell's 1990 film, *Voices in Exile: Immigrants and the First Amendment*, chronicles the early years of the case, when the LA-8 were accused under the McCarthy-era McCarren-Walter Act for supporting "world communism," and then under the 1990 Immigration and Nationality Act for supporting "terrorism." They were charged with affiliation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a PLO member organization, for their community organizing on behalf of Palestinian rights. The film exposes a 1986 INS "Alien Terrorist Contingency Plan" to round up suspected terrorists from a list of Middle Eastern countries in the event of war in a detention center in Oakdale, Louisiana. This Reagan-era plan called for a "test case" to see what the public response would be. Fortunately, for Shehadeh and his co-defendants, as well as for all our civil rights, there was an outpouring of community and national support for the LA-8. In discussion, Mandell stressed the importance of activist media in getting these stories out to the public and exposing the government's violation of immigrant rights.

Shehadeh, a Palestinian American and green card holder, argued that the government tried to set a precedent with the LA-8 case. They used secret evidence and argued that immigrants do not have the right to free political speech. As the legal landscape changed for immigrants, the defendants were tried under successive government legislation retroactively—The Counter-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (1996), the USA Patriot Act (2001), and the Real ID Act (2005). Yet judges repeatedly ruled in their favor. Judge Bruce J. Einhorn called the government's behavior "an embarrassment to the rule of law." Many of the abuses suffered by the LA-8 have become common practice under post-9/11 policies.

What lessons can be learned from this—the longest political immigration case in US history? As the film shows, this case is a continuation of an historical pattern against certain communities to assert government control over those who dissent. *Voices in Exile* draws connections between the Palmer Raids, the Japanese Internment, and the LA-8 case, which prefigure post-9/11 policies of detention and deportation in the name of fighting "terrorism." "How do you keep fear of the government from stifling dissent?" asked Shehadeh. "We must not see the government as all powerful—our victory is proof of that." Shehadeh also argued for building movements in support of immigrants.

Michel Shehadeh and Joan Mandell. (Photo by Therese Saliba)

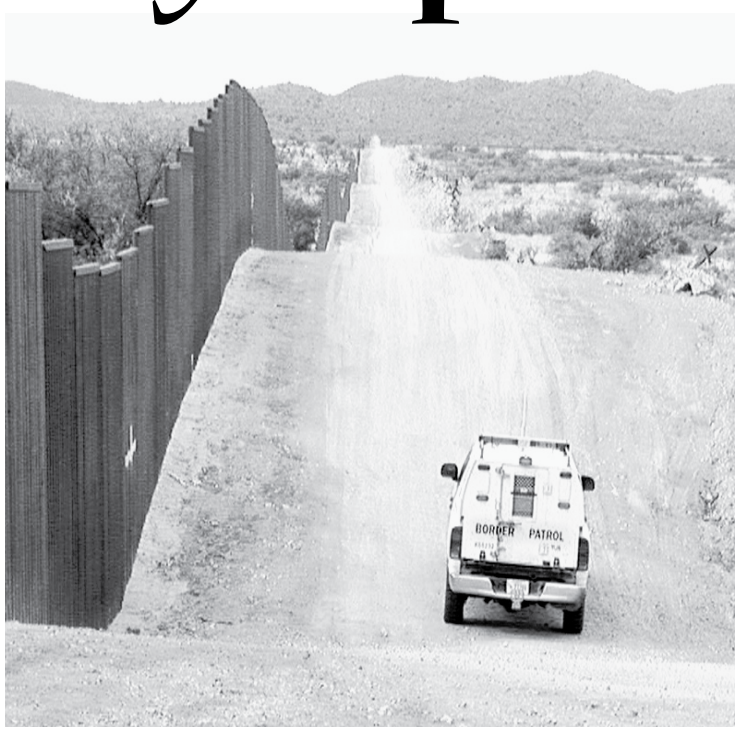
Shehadeh asserts that the government tried to deport them for 20 years because they were "trying to educate Americans about the situation facing millions of Palestinians living in apartheid-like conditions under the Israeli military occupation." Shehadeh and Mandell began their talks by saying they were honored to be in Olympia, and at Evergreen, the home and school of Rachel Corrie. Mandell, who also made the 1984 film *Gaza Ghetto*, said that she had stood in the very place where Rachel was killed. She was inspired by Rachel's courage and honored to have the chance to speak to her community.

Voices in Exile is available at The Evergreen State College library or through *www.newday.com/films/VoicesinExile.html*.

Therese Saliba is faculty of International Feminism and Middle East Studies at The Evergreen State College.

Immigration Café in Olympia

Local immigration issues and the realities of the border with Mexico



- Connect border enforcement policies with ICE raids in Washington State
- Presentations by local immigrant groups and film clips of interviews with border solidarity activists
- Militarization of our borders and criminalization of undocumented migrants will not result in national security.

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
1515 Harrison Ave NW on the Westside of Olympia

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for more information please email ***bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net***

Save the dates! May 15–18, 2008:
Immigration & Border Dialogues Conference at The Evergreen State College
Second Saturday of every month:
Melt ICE! Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma

▸ **BRIANA WATERS** continued from page 1

But we citizens and protectors of civil liberties will not look the other way. Our presence in the courtroom for this trial is constant. We have been able to document and disperse the information about this case to media sources invested in the well being of citizens. It is important that as concerned community members, students, independent reporters, and activists, we continue to bear witness to these proceedings. Our civil liberties are on the line, not only for the present time but for generations to come.

Briana Waters was a prominent community member in Olympia and the Evergreen community. She maintains her innocence. It is chilling when people are targeted after years of community involvement, through personal friends turning informants and the intensive surveillance in our community. This case has been a wide fishing expedition and not targeted on one group. We all have much to learn from this case in our community.

For the duration of the trial, visit *portland.indymedia.org/en/topic/greenscare* for more information on how to dress and act respectful to the court.

For full transcript and current notes on the proceedings in the court, go to *www.cldc.org/waters.html*

For donating directly to Briana, her family and the defense, visit *www.supportbriana.org*.

The Olympia Civil Liberties Resource is committed to monitoring our civil liberties in our community and is currently focused on the Briana Waters case. There will be a community debriefing after this case is over. For more information: *www.olycivlib.org* and *portland.indymedia.org/en/topic/greenscare*.

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